Timucuan National Preserve National Park Service



Birds of the Timucuan National Preserve

Field Checklist

About the Preserve

The 46,000 acre Timucuan National Preserve was established by the United States Congress in 1988 to protect the complex salt marsh/estuarine ecosystem and historic and prehistoric sites between the lower St. Johns and Nassau Rivers.

Public lands within the Preserve are administered by the National Park Service, the State of Florida, and the City of Jacksonville. The remainder is privately owned. Currently, the National Park Service owns approximately 9,500 acres within the Preserve, which includes Fort Caroline National Memorial, Theodore Roosevelt Area, Kingsley Plantation, and Cedar Point.

The Preserve is a vast expanse of salt marsh grasses and waterways, quiet wooded islands, and long views of a flat horizon. Some views are pristine, while others display striking evidence of humans: shell middens, ancient forts, a historic plantation, modern homes, power-plant towers, Naval Station Mayport, automobile bridges, and the primary pleasure-boat corridor on the east coast - the Intracoastal Waterway.

Much of the salt marsh is among the least disturbed on the southern Atlantic Coast. The estuarine habitats of the Preserve provide important spawning grounds for many economically important fish and invertebrates.

Due to the orientation of the Preserve and the large range of unimpaired habitats found here, a rich diversity of plant and animal life can be readily observed. Rare and sensitive species of plants and animals representing important and critical habitats in the Preserve include sea oats, Atlantic loggerhead turtle, West Indian Manatee, and Wood Stork.

Birding in General

Bird populations vary greatly in numbers and species according to seasons. Fall and spring are the best times to observe the highest diversity of Neotropical migrants. Large numbers of breeding and non-breeding gulls and terns can easily be observed in the summer months. Wide varieties of water and land birds, and birds of prey, are present during winter. The National Audubon Society's

Jacksonville Christmas Bird Count boasts an annual tally of over 150 species (one of the highest in North America). Most of this count area lies within Preserve boundaries. Birds are attracted to saltwater marshes, beach and shoreflats and a wide variety of upland areas. The best opportunity to observe the greatest diversity of bird life is from mid-September to mid-May.

In summer biting insects, afternoon thunderstorms, and sweltering heat and humidity are the rule, but summer is also the best time to observe the largest numbers and species of shorebirds. Winter days can be quite mild and pleasant, but always be prepared for rapidly changing weather patterns.

When looking at a bird, pay close attention to the field marks, such as color, size, shape, and wing and head markings. Study the bird as long as possible, referring to your field guide only after careful observation. Take careful field notes and be sure to report rare, unusual, or out-of-range birds to Preserve staff.

About the Checklist

This list contains 340 species that have been recorded either in the Timucuan National Preserve, or elsewhere in Duval County. The nomenclature and taxonomic order used in this list follow those appearing in the 6th edition of the American Birding Association's *Birds of the Continental United States and Canada*, published in 2002.

Legend

Sp- Spring, late February through mid-May

S - Summer, mid-May through mid-July

F - Fall, mid-July through mid-November

W - Winter, mid-November through late February

Spring - Some species migrate much earlier than others, appearing in the Jacksonville area during late February, but are nonetheless considered spring migrants rather than winter visitors. Their status at this time of year is indicated under Spring rather than Winter.

Summer - Status under this heading indicates the relative abundance of breeding and summering birds. Observers must remember that a few spring migrants can be found into late May, and that fall migrants occur by early July. As these are not summering residents, their status as migrants is indicated under Spring and Fall rather than Summer

Fall - Some species, particularly shorebirds, start appearing in the Jacksonville area by early July, however their status as fall migrants in July and August is indicated under Fall rather than Summer.

Winter - Status under this heading indicates the relative abundance of wintering birds. As indicated above, some early spring migrants may be present during March or earlier, as with Purple Martins. Likewise, some late fall migrants linger into November. However, these occurrences are omitted from the Winter column so as to clearly indicate the true winter residents and visitors.

Seasonal Abundance Codes

- Common to Abundant, easily found in suitable habitat.
- u Uncommon to Fairly Common, found when looked for in suitable habitat, but can be missed.
- Rare to Very Uncommon, more often missed than seen, even when looked for in suitable habitat.
- Occasional, normally less than five individuals per season during any given year, but to be looked for.
- a Accidental, ten records or less for the entire area, and not to be expected.

Families and Common Names	Sp	S	F	W
Gaviidae: Loons				
Red-throated Loon (highly variable numbers year to year)	0		r	r
Common Loon (can be abundant during fall migration)	r	а	u	u
Podicipedidae: Grebes				
Pied-billed Grebe (breeds)	u	r	u	u
Horned Grebe	r		u	u
Procellariidae: Shearwaters				
Cory's Shearwater (pelagic)	u	С	u	
Greater Shearwater (pelagic)	r	r	0	
Sooty Shearwater (pelagic)	0	0		
Audubon's Shearwater (pelagic)	0	0	0	
Hydrobatidae: Storm-Petrels				
Wilson's Storm-Petrel (pelagic)	С	С	r	
Leach's Storm-Petrel (pelagic)	r			
Sulidae: Boobies and Gannets				
Northern Gannet	u		u	С
Pelecanidae: Pelicans				
American White Pelican (numbers variable in winter)	r	0	r	r
Brown Pelican	С	С	С	С
Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants				
Double-crested Cormorant	С	u	С	С
Anhingidae: Darters				
Anhinga (very local, breeds)	u	u	u	u
Ardeidae: Bitterns and Herons				
American Bittern	r		r	а
Least Bittern (very local, breeds)	r	r	r	
Great Blue Heron (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Great Egret (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Snowy Egret (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Little Blue Heron (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Tricolored Heron (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Reddish Egret (most easily seen at , or near, beaches)	0	u	r	0
Cattle Egret (breeds)	С	С	u	0
Green Heron (breeds)	С	С	u	u
Black-crowned Night-Heron (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (breeds)	u	u	u	u
Threskiornithidae: Ibisis and Spoonbills				
White Ibis (breeds)	С	u	С	С
Glossy Ibis	r	r	r	r
Roseate Spoonbill (locally common at times in summer)	r	u	r	а

Ciconiidae: Storks Wood Stork (breeds) Black Vulture (breeds) Turkey Vulture (breeds) Snow Goose (please note if blue subspecies) Canada Goose (virtually all are feral, breeds) Muscovy Duck (all ferai) Wood Duck (breeds) American Wigeon American Black Duck Mottled Duck (breeds, watch for Mallard/Mottled hybrids) Mottled Duck (breeds, watch for Mallard/Mottled hybrids) Motthern Pintail Green-winged Teal Canvasback Redhead Ring-necked Duck Redhead Ring-necked Duck Suff Scoter White-winged Scoter Black Scoter (can be very common in winter) Common Goldeneye Hooded Merganser Red-breasted Merganser Red-breasted Merganser Red-breasted Merganser Ring-neckeds) C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	Families and Common Names	Sp	S	F	W
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Turkey Vulture (breeds) C C C C Anatidae: Ducks, Geese, and Swans Snow Goose (please note ifblue subspecies) C Canada Goose (virtually all are feral, breeds) Wood Duck (all feral) Wood Duck (breeds) Wallard (virtually all are feral, breeds) Wood Duck (breeds, watch for Mallard/Mottled hybrids) Wood Duck (breeds, watch for Mallard/Wottled hybrids) Wood Duck (breeds) Wood Duck (bree	Carthartidae: New World Vultures				
Anatidae: Ducks, Geese, and Swans Snow Goose (please note ifblue subspecies) Canada Goose (virtually all are feral, breeds) Muscovy Duck (all feral) Wood Duck (breeds) Wood Duck (breeds) Gadwall American Wigeon American Black Duck Mallard (virtually all are feral, breeds) Mallard (virtually all are feral, breeds) Mottled Duck (breeds, watch for Mallard/Mottled hybrids) Blue-winged Teal Northern Pintail Green-winged Teal Canvasback Redhead Ring-necked Duck Redhead Ring-necked Duck Ring-necked Duck Redhead Ring-necked Duck Red-breasted Merganser Red-breasted Merganser Red-breasted Merganser Red-breasted Merganser Red-breasted Merganser Red-breadsed Kite (breeds) Mississippi Kite Bald Eagle (numbers variable in winter, breeds) Righ-p-shinned Hawk Right in Ring-recked Red-breasting Ring-recked Red Common Gladeneye Red-breadser Red-breads Red-	Black Vulture (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Snow Goose (please note ifblue subspecies) 0 <td> Turkey Vulture (breeds)</td> <td>С</td> <td>С</td> <td>С</td> <td>С</td>	Turkey Vulture (breeds)	С	С	С	С
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Red-tailed Hawk (breeds) u u u c			11	- 11	
Ned falled Hawk (piecus) u u u c	Nou-tailou i lawk (biecus)	u	u	u	C

Families and Common Names	Sp	S	F	W
Falconidae: Falcons				
American Kestrel	r	а	u	С
Merlin (more common during migration)	r		r	r
Peregrine Falcon (numbers peak in October)	r		u	0
Phasianidae: Turkeys				
Wild Turkey (most are found in western Duval Co, bree	eds) U	u	u	u
Odontophoridae: New World Quail				
Northern Bobwhite (declining, local, breeds)	u	u	u	u
Rallidae: Rails, Gallinules, and Coots				
Clapper Rail (breeds)	С	С	С	С
King Rail	0		0	r
Virginia Rail	r		0	u
Sora	u		u	u
Purple Gallinule (very local, breeds)	r	r		
Common Moorhen (breeds)	С	С	С	С
American Coot (breeding status unknown)	u	r	u	С
Gruidae: Cranes				
Sandhill Crane	0		0	
Charadriidae: Plovers				
Black-bellied Plover	С	r	С	С
American Golden-Plover (late summer migrant)	0	r	r	
Wilson's Plover (breeds)	u	u	u	u
Semipalmated Plover	u		С	С
Piping Plover	r		u	u
Killdeer (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Haematopodidae: Oystercatchers				
American Oystercatcher (breeds)	u	u	u	u
Recurvirostridae: Stilts and Avocets				
Black-necked Stilt (breeds)	u	u	u	a
American Avocet	r		r	r
Scolopacidae: Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allie	es es			
Greater Yellowlegs	u		С	С
Lesser Yellowlegs	u		С	r
Solitary Sandpiper	u		u	
Willet (breeds)	C	С	С	C
Spotted Sandpiper	u	0	С	u
Upland Sandpiper Whimbrel	0		0	
Whilitide Long-billed Curlew	u		u	0
Marbled Godwit	r	0	r	0
Ruddy Turnstone	C	r	C	С
Red Knot (sporadic in spring migration)	С		u	u
Sanderling	С	0	С	С

Families and Common Names	Sp	S	F	W
Sandpipers, Phalaropes and allies, continued				
Semipalmated Sandpiper (returns mid-summer)	C		С	
Western Sandpiper (most are gone by mid-April)	r		С	С
Least Sandpiper (starts returning mid-summer)	С		С	С
White-rumped Sandpiper	r		r	
Pectoral Sandpiper	r		u	0
Purple Sandpiper (most records from Huguenot Park)	0		0	0
Dunlin	r		u	С
Stilt Sandpiper	r		u	0
Buff-breasted Sandpiper			r	
Short-billed Dowitcher	u	0	С	С
Long-billed Dowitcher (found near fresh water)	r		r	r
Wilson's Snipe	r		u	С
American Woodcock (breeding status unknown)	r	0	r	u
Wilson's Phalarope	0	Ü	r	ď
Red-necked Phalarope (mostly pelagic)	0		r	r
Red Phalarope (pelagic)	O		0	r
Trout Halaropo (pelagio)			Ü	•
Laridae: Skuas, Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers				
Pomarine Jaeger	0		r	r
Parasitic Jaeger	0	а	r	r
Laughing Gull (breeds)	С	С	C	С
Bonaparte's Gull	r	C	r	u
		r	C	C
•	u	r		
Herring GullLesser Black-backed Gull (most numerous in Oct.)	u	r	С	C
	0	а	u	r
		r		0
	u	r	u	С
Gull-billed Tern (breeds, declining)	u	u	r	а
Common Tern (numbers peak in late summer)	r	r	C	
Caspian Tern	u	r	u	u
Royal Tern (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Sandwich Tern (breeds)	u	u	u	r
Forster's Tern	С		С	С
Least Tern (breeds)	С	С	r	
Bridled Tern (pelagic)	r	r	r	
Sooty Tern (pelagic)	u	u	u	
Black Tern (most numerous from land in Aug./Sept.)	r	0	u	
Black Skimmer (breeds)	u	u	u	u
Columbidae: Doves				
Rock Dove (breeds)	C	С	С	С
Eurasian Collared-Dove (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Mourning Dove (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Common Ground-Dove (breeds)	u	u	u	u
Cuculidae: Cuckoos				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (breeds)	u	u	u	

Families and Common Names	Sp	S	F	W
Tytonidae: Barn Owls				
Barn Owl (current beeding status unknown)	0	0	0	0
Strigidae: Typical Owls				
Eastern Screech-Owl (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Great Horned Owl (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Barred Owl (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Short-eared Owl				0
Caprimulgidae: Goatsuckers				
Common Nighthawk (breeds)	С	С	u	a
Chuck-will's-widow (breeds)	С	С	r	
Whip-poor-will (numbers highest mid/late-March)	r		0	0
Apodidae: Swifts				
Chimney Swift (breeds)	С	С	С	
Trochilidae: Hummingbirds				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird (breeds)	С	С	С	0
Black-chinned Hummingbird				a
Rufous Hummingbird				0
Alcedinidae: Kingfishers				
Belted Kingfisher (breeds)	r	0	С	С
Picidae: Woodpeckers				
Red-headed Woodpecker (breeds)	r	r	r	r
Red-bellied Woodpecker (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	r		u	u
Downy Woodpecker (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Hairy Woodpecker (very local, w. Duval Co.)	0	0	0	0
Northern Flicker (breeds)	u	r	u	u
Pileated Woodpecker (breeds)	u	u	u	u
Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers				
Eastern Wood-Pewee (breeds, western Duval Co.)	r	r	r	
Acadian Flycatcher (breeds. westerm Duval Co.)	r	r	r	
Willow Flycatcher	а		0	
Least Flycatcher	0		0	
Eastern Phoebe	r		С	С
Great Crested Flycatcher (breeds)	С	С	С	a
Western Kingbird	a		0	
Eastern Kingbird (breeds, western Duval Co.)	u	u	u	
Gray Kingbird (very local near beaches, breeds)	0	r	0	
Laniidae: Shrikes				
Loggerhead Shrike (breeds)	u	u	u	u

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Sp S F W

Families and Common Names

Families and Common Names	Sp	S	F	W
Turdidae: Thrushes				
Eastern Bluebird (breeds)	u	u	u	С
Veery	r		u	
Gray-cheeked Thrush			0	
Swainson's Thrush	0		u	
Hermit Thrush	U		u	С
Wood Thrush	0		0	
American Robin (breeds)	u	r	u	С
Mimidae: Mockingbirds and Trashers				
Gray Catbird (breeding status unknown)	U	0	u	С
Northern Mockingbird (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Brown Thrasher (breeds)	u	u	u	u
Sturnidae: Starlings				
European Starling (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Motacillidae: Pipits				
American Pipit	r		r	u
Dombyoillides, Waynings				
Bombycillidae: Waxwings Cedar Waxwing (numbers highly variable in winter)				
Cedai waxwiiiy (numbers nigniy variable in winter)	u		u	u
Parulidae: Warblers				
Blue-winged Warbler	r		u	
Golden-winged Warbler	0		0	
Tennessee Warbler	r		u	
Orange-crowned Warbler	r		u	u
Nashville Warbler	а		0	a
Northern Parula (breeds)	С	С	u	0
Yellow Warbler	U		u	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	0		u	
Magnolia Warbler	0		u	
Cape May Warbler	u		u	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	u		u	a
Yellow-rumped Warbler	u		С	С
Black-throated Green Warbler	0		r	a
Blackburnian Warbler	0		r	
Yellow-throated Warbler (breeds)	С	С	С	u
Pine Warbler (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Prairie Warbler	С	0	С	0
Palm Warbler	С		С	С
Bay-breasted Warbler	0		u	
Blackpoll Warbler	u		u	
Cerulean Warbler Black-and-white Warbler			0	
Biack-and-white warbier American Redstart	u		u	U
	u	r	C	a
Prothonotary Warbler (very local as breeder)	r	r	r	
Worm-eating Warbler Swainson's Warbler	u		u	
Ovenbird	o u		u	0
Overibled	u		u	U

Families and Common Names	Sp	S	F	W
Warblers, continued				
Northern Waterthrush	u		С	0
Louisiana Waterthrush	0		r	
Kentucky Warbler	0		0	
Common Yellowthroat (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Hooded Warbler (very local, breeds western Duval Co.)	r	r	U	
Wilson's Warbler	0		0	а
Canada Warbler	0		0	
Yellow-breasted Chat (very local as breeder)	r	r	r	
Thraupidae: Tanagers				
Summer Tanager (breeds)	С	С	С	0
Scarlet Tanager	r		u	
Emberizidae: Emberizids				
Eastern Towhee (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Bachman's Sparrow (local, breeds western Duval Co.)	r	r	r	0
Chipping Sparrow	u		С	С
Clay-colored Sparrow	а		0	0
Field Sparrow	r		r	u
Vesper Sparrow	r		r	r
Lark Sparrow	а		0	а
Savannah Sparrow	С		С	С
Grasshopper Sparrow	0		0	0
Henslow's Sparrow	0		0	r
Le Conte's Sparrow	0		0	0
Swamp Sparrow	r		u	С
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	u		u	u
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow	u		u	u
Seaside Sparrow (breeds)	С	u	С	С
Fox Sparrow	а		0	0
Song Sparrow	0		u	u
Lincoln's Sparrow				0
Swamp Sparrow	r		u	u
White-throated Sparrow	r		r	u
White-crowned Sparrow	0		r	r
Dark-eyed Junco			а	0
Lapland Longspur (most often seen at Huguenot Park)				0
Cardinalidae: Cardinals, Saltators, and Allies				
Northern Cardinal (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	r	-	r	r
Blue Grosbeak (breeds)	u	r	u	
Indigo Bunting (very local as breeder)	u	r	u	
Painted Bunting (breeds)	C	C	u	0
•	Ü	J	u	J
Icteridae: Blackbirds				
Bobolink	U		U	
Red-winged Blackbird (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Eastern Meadowlark (very local, declining as breeder)	U	r	u	u
Rusty Blackbird	0		0	r
Common Grackle (breeds)	С	С	С	С

Families and Common Names	Sp	S	F	W
Blackbirds, continued Boat-tailed Grackle (breeds) Brown-headed Cowbird (breeds) Orchard Oriole (breeds) Baltimore Oriole	c c u r	c c u	C C r	с с
Fringillidae: Cardueline Finches and Allies Purple Finch House Finch (very local, breeds) Pine Siskin American Goldfinch	r a r	r	r u	0 r 0 u
Passeridae: Old World Sparrows House Sparrow (breeds)	С	С	С	С

Accidentals: the following 46 species have been seen 10 times or less in Duval County; however, they should be in the back of your mind depending on the season and/or habitat.

Red-necked Grebe	Atlantic Puffin
Eared Grebe	White-winged Dove
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	Monk Parakeet
White-tailed Tropicbird	Black-billed Cuckoo
Great Cormorant	Calliope Hummingbird
Magnificent Frigatebird	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	Alder Flycatcher
Fulvous Whistling Duck	Ash-throated Flycatcher
Ross's Goose	Tropical Kingbird
Tundra Swan	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Brant	Cave Swallow
Common Eider	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Harlequin Duck	Brown Creeper
Common Merganser	Connecticut Warbler
Snowy Plover	Western Tanager
Bar-tailed Godwit	Snow Bunting
Baird's Sandpiper	Black-headed Grosbeak
Iceland Gull	Dickcissel
Franklin's Gull	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Black-headed Gull	Brewer's Blackbird
Sabine's Gull	Shiny Cowbird
Black-legged Kittiwake	Bullock's Oriole
Arctic Tern	Evening Grosbeak

Field Notes

Date:	No. of Species:
Time Afield:	
Areas Covered:	
Observer(s):	
\\/oathor:	
Weather:	
Remarks:	
	

Birding areas worth a visit:

Huguenot Memorial Park
Kingsley Plantation
Fort Caroline National Memorial
Theodore Roosevelt Area
Cedar Point
Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park
Big and Little Talbot Islands State Parks
Ribault Club
Pumpkin Hill Creek State Buffer Preserve
Pelotes Island

Jacksonville's Beaches (south of St. Johns River)

Little Jetties Fishing Park

Timucuan National Preserve 13165 Mt. Pleasant Road Jacksonville, Florida 32225 Telephone: (904) 221-5568

Fax: (904) 221-5248

National Park Service: http://www.nps.gov

October 2003

Please send any records of rare birds, birds not on this list (for any season), abundancies, or any other comments to the above address.

